

Message Text

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UNCLAS ANKARA 3118

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRIMIN DEMIREL RESPONDS TO CARAMANLIS STATEMENTS

REF ATHENS 3760

PRIMIN DEMIREL RESPONDED APRIL 17 TO THE STATEMENTS CONCERNING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS MADE BY GREEK PRIMIN CARAMANLIS DURING THE GREEK PARLIAMENT'S DEBATES ON THE US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (REFTEL). TEXT OF TOA DEMIREL ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: IN A SPEECH IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT TODAY, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TOUCHED ON GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS AND WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE ATMOSPHERE OF DISTRUST TOWARDS MY PEOPLE, SUGGESTED THAT THE ARMS RACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BE ENDED, THAT A NON-AGRESSION PACT BE CONCLUDED AND THAT AGREEMENTS BE SIGNED FOR THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF OUR PROBLEMS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS CONFIRMED OUR PEACE-LOVING POLICY IN THE
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OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ISSUED BY BOTH OUR FOREIGN MINISTER AND

ME DURING THE ONE YEAR THAT HAS ELAPSED SINCE THE FORMATION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC NOW IN OFFICE.

WE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE
TURKISH REPUBLIC OVER HALF A CENTURY AGO, WE HAVE NOT HARBORED
AGGRESSIVE AMBITIONS AGAINST ANY OF OUR NEIGHBOURS OR AGAINST
GREECE AND THAT THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CAN BE
SOLVED ONLY IN PEACEFUL AND GOODWILLED NEGOTIATIONS TO
REACH AN AGREEMENT. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IN HIS STATEMENT
TODAY THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER HAS ALSO MADE REFERENCE
TO MY LAST INTERVIEW TO 'IL MESSAGERO'. IN MY STATEMENT TO THE
SAID ITALIAN NEWSPAPER I NOTED ONCE AGAIN TURKEY'S PEACE-
LOVING POLICY TOWARDS GREECE AND INVITED GREECE TO RECIPROCATE
OUR GOODWILL#; LOOKED AT FROM THIS ANGLE, IT IS PLEASEING THAT PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAS ANSWERED OUR APPEAL CONSTRUCTIVELY,
ALTHOUGH BELATEDLY.

I FIND IT USEFUL TO ANNOUNCE ONCE AGAIN OUR STANCE ON GRECO-
TURKISH RELATIONS IN A WAY TO LEAVE NO ROOM FOR ANY MISTAKE:

TURKEY HAS NOT CAUSED ANY OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

TURKEY HAS NOT ENTERED IN THE ARMS RACE WITH GREECE.

TURKEY HAS NO AGGRESSIVE AMBITIONS AGAINST GREECE.

TURKEY SINCERELY WANTS THE EXISTING PROBLEMS BETWEEN
ITSELF AND GREECE TO BE SOLVED TO THE SENEFIT OF BOTH
COUNTRIES THROUGH PEACEFUL AND GOODWILLED NEGOTIATIONS.

PROCEEDING FROM THESE PRINCIPLES AND GIVEING NEW
EVIDENCE OF OUR GOODWILL, WE ARE READY TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT
IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE IN THE MOST CATEGORIC WAY THE
DISTRUSTFUL ATMOSPHERE WHICH REIGNS OVER RELATIONS BETWEEN
TURKEY AND GREECE AND TO RAISE THEM TO THE LEVEL BEFITTING
TWO ALLIED AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. END TEXT.
MACOMBER

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